PORT OF PLYMOUTH

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. T.A.I. Rees,

For the year 1970

HEALTH
F.O. 2

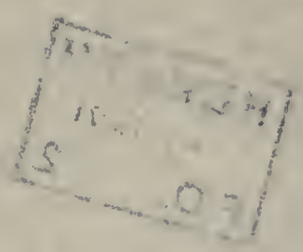
INTRODUCTION

This report is in the form and sequence prescribed for Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Port Health Authorities by the Ministry of Health, Form Port 20, dated October, 1952.

The pattern of sea traffic has not significantly changed during the past 5 years.

Alien passengers arrive and depart mainly from (a) calling cruise liners (b) yachts (c) crews' relatives.

There is no regular passenger service at Plymouth.



SECTION I - STAFF

Name of Officer	Nature of Appointment	Date of Appointment	Qualifications	Any Other Appointments Held
T.A.I. Rees	Port Medical Officer	5.12.32	B.Sc., M.B. D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health City of Plymouth
G.B. Carter	Deputy Port Medical Officer	5.7.48	M.B.E.,M.D. D.P.H.	Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Senior School Medical Officer, City of Plymouth
W.H. Johnson	Port Health	3.6.69	Sanitary Inspectors Certificate, Diploma for Inspector of Meat and other Foods	

Address and Telephone Number of the Medical Officer of Health:

Port Health Office: Millbay Docks, Plymouth
Telephone Plymouth 68000, Ext. 2229 by day If no reply Ext. 2128.
Telephone Plymouth 64101 at night and weekend (Ambulance Headquarters)
City Office: Municipal Offices, City Centre, Plymouth
Telephone Plymouth 68000 Ext. 2128

SECTION II

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	Number Inspected		Number of ships reported as having had during the voyage infectious diseases on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector	
Foreign Ports	984	559,590	2	410	One
Coastwise	1,264	824,086	3	514	Nil
Totals	2,248	1383,676	5	924	Nil

SECTION III

CHARACTER OF SHIPPING AND TRADE DURING THE YEAR

TABLE C

Passenger Traffic
Number of Passengers INWARDS 2,377
Number of Passengers OUTWARDS 2,465

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS

Foreign

Cargo Traffic

Preserved meat and cheese from Holland.
Fresh fruit and vegetables from Holland, France and Spain.
Timber from Canada, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Finland, East Germany and U.S.A.

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS (CONTINUED)

Grain from Holland, France and Germany.
Fuel Oils from the West Indies, Singapore and Greece.
Fertilisers from Holland, Germany, France, Sweden and Finland.
Wines and spirits from Holland and France.
Tinned and dried milk from Holland.
Fresh fruit from Cyprus.
Confectionary from Holland.
Oyster shell from the continent.
Liquified Petroleum Gas from France.
Potatoes from Egypt.
Steel from Holland Belgium.
Motor Spirit from Germany, Aden and Belgium.

Coastal

Coal from South Wales and North-East ports.
Petrol, oil and paraffin from Farley, Hamble, Milford Haven, Swansea, Brixham and Falmouth.
Fertilisers from Immingham and Belfast.
Potatoes from Northern Ireland.
Grain from Avonmouth, Isle of White, Blyth and Kings Lynn.
Gypsum from Ireland.
Tomatoes from Jersey.
Cable from Southampton.

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS

China Clay.
Granite chippings.
Scrap metals.
Fertilisers.
Broken glass.
Limestone.

PRINCIPAL PORTS FROM WHICH SHIPS ARRIVE

Asia and Australasia	Europe	America	Africa
Singapore	Rotterdam	Vancouver	Las Palmas
	Gibraltar	Trinidad	Alexandria
	Ghent	San Francisco	Cape Town
	Brest	New York	
	La Pallice	Recife	
	Le Havre		
	Antwerp		
	Amsterdam		
	Bordeaux		
	Roscoff		
	Limassol		
	Rouen		
	Gothenburg		
	Hamina		
	Lisbon		
	Confreville		
	Roytta		
	Copenhagen		
	Gdynia		

SECTION IV

INLAND BARGE TRAFFIC

There is no inland barge traffic at the port.

SECTION V - WATER SUPPLY

(a) The source of water supply for the Port, British Transport Docks, Victoria Wharves, Cattedown and Sutton Harbour is from Plymouth Corporation Water Department hydrants on the wharves.

(b) Shipping is supplied with water from hydrants on the wharves and from H.M. Dockyard water-boats.

SECTION VI

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHIPS) REGULATIONS, 1966

(1) List of Infected Areas (Regulations6)

A list of Seaports and Airports in which a confirmed or suspected quarantinable disease has occurred is supplied weekly by the World Health Organisation, Geneva. Copies are typed and sent to the Chief Pilot, H.M. Customs and to all the boarding Medical Officers.

(2) Radio Messages (Regulation 13)

(a) There are no arrangements for sending permission by radio for ships arriving from foreign ports to enter the district except for foreign warships and Royal Navy Auxiliary vessels which are in radio communication with the Plymouth Naval Base and report their state of health prior to entering the port. Other vessels anchor in the Sound which is a recognised m mooring station and are there boarded.

Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)

(b) Vessels landing passengers and any other vessels requiring the attention of the Port Medical Officer, usually wireless their time of arrival at the Port and the state of health on board to the agents. The latter then inform the Port Health Authority and, in the case of vessels landing passengers, give the time the vessel is expected to anchor in the Sound. The Medical Officer boards the vessel by means of the Port Health launch. If there are any infectious conditions aboard, the vessel is required to give preliminary radio warning either to the Port Health Authority or to the local Agents in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1966.

(3) Notification otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14 (1) (b)

Vessels entering the Port requiring the Port Medical Officer, fly the appropriate flag and are boarded in the Sound by the Medical Officer and the Inspector by means of the Port Health launch, which is prepared to land cases if necessary.

After office hours, information concerning ships entering the Port flying a signal for the Port Medical Officer is received from the Queen's Harbourmaster, H.M. Customs or Royal Naval Authorities.

(4) Mooring Stations (Regulations 22 to 30)

Jennycliffe Bay in Plymouth Sound is used as a mooring station in the case of vessels which entend entering the Docks.

As the larger liners lie off Cawsand Bay or just inside the Breakwater, the usual anchorage is regarded as a mooring station.

(5) Arrangements for:

(a) Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases (other than smallpox)

Cases of infectious disease landed from vessels are admitted to the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. Cases suffering from Tuberculosis may be accommodated by arrangement at the Mount Gould Orthopaedic Hospital, Plymouth, if unfit to travel to their homeaddress.

(b) Surveillance and follow up of contacts.

Where necessary, the names and intended destinations of passengers disembarking from a ship who are contacts of infectious disease are forwarded to the Medical Officers of Health in the appropriate districts.

(c) Cleansing and disinfection of ships, persons, clothing and other articles.

When cases of infectious disease are removed from ships in the motor launch "Argus" to hospital ashore, the quarters on board are disinfected with Formalin.

Clothing, bedding, etc., are conveyed to the Scott Isolation Hospital for steam disinfection.

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SECTION VII

SMALLPOX

1. Isolation hospitals available.

The first case or cases would be admitted to the Smallpox Hospital, Liskeard, Cornwall (Telephone: Liskeard 2385), staffed from the Scott Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. (Telephone 51437.)
Consultant Physician: Dr. G.R. Steed.

Should it appear likely that more extensive accommodation would be required, arrangements would be made for the Lee Mill Smallpox Hospital, at present used for geriatric cases, to be re-opened as a Smallpox Hospital.

2. Arrangements for the transport of cases to hospital

The Launch "Argus" of the Plymouth Port Health Authority, based at Millbay Docks, Plymouth (Telephone Plymouth 68000, Extn. 2229 or 2128 by day and Plymouth 64101 at night and weekends) is available to transport cases from ship to shore. The launch is equipped with a radio transmitter and receiver linked to the Plymouth Ambulance Headquarters.

Ambulances of the Plymouth City Council's Ambulance Service (Telephone: Plymouth 64101) are available to transport cases to hospital.

3. Smallpox consultants.

Dr. W.H. St. John-Brooks
West Cornwall Hospital
Penzance, Cornwall.

Office Telephone 07362382
Home Telephone: 0736 752439

4. Facilities for the laboratory diagnosis of smallpox.

Materials for the collection of specimens from suspected cases are always available at the Port Health Offices, Plymouth.

Specimens are forwarded to the Virus Reference Laboratory, Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale Avenue, London N.W.9.

SECTION VIII

VENEREAL DISEASE

Location and facilities for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal disease and days and hours of attendance:

Monday	.....	6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Tuesday	.....	10.00 a.m. - 11.30 a.m.
Wednesday	.....	10.30 a.m. - 12.00 noon
Thursday	.....	6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.
Saturday	.....	11.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

During the year 151 seamen were treated at the Venereal Disease Clinic, an increase of 18 over 1969.

The nationalities were as follows:-

British	.....	106
Other Nationalities	.....	45
Total	...	151

SECTION IX

CASES OF NOTIFIABLE AND OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON SHIPS

One ship arrived, the R.F.A. Tidepool, on the 9th October 1970, and one junior officer was suffering from Scarlet Fever, but did not land.

SECTION X

OBSERVATIONS ON THE OCCURRENCE OF MALARIA IN SHIPS

There were no cases of malaria brought to notice in ships arriving at Plymouth during the year.

SECTION XI

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST SHIPS INFECTED WITH OR SUSPECTED FOR PLAGUE

No plague infected or suspected ships entered the Port during the year.

SECTION XII

1. Ships arriving at the various wharves are boarded by the Port Health Inspector or Rodent Operator. Enquiries are made of the officers and crew as to evidence of rat infestation. Docksides, wharves and warehouses in dock areas are under constant surveillance for evidence of rodent infestation, and Foremen Stevedores are also questioned as to the presence of rats. Where evidence of rat infestation is found, trapping or poisoning is carried out by the Rodent Operator.

2. All rats caught are destroyed and some specimens found are submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Greenbank, Plymouth.

3. If necessary, deratting of ships would be carried out by poisoning using 1080. This treatment would be carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

MEASURES TAKEN AGAINST RODENTS IN SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS (Continued)

Should it be deemed necessary to fumigate a vessel, Methyl Bromide or Hydrogen Cyanide would be used, depending on availability. Fumigation would be carried out by private firms under the supervision of the Port Health Authority.

Commercial Contractors carrying out such deratting treatments are:-

1. Conbra-pest Services Ltd., 2, Ranslegh Road, London E.6.
2. Rentokil Laboratories Ltd., Marine and Fumigation Division, 112 Victoria Dock Road, London E.16.

Small interim treatments are carried out by the Port Health Authority's Rodent Operator using Warfarin.

Inspections confirm that rat proofing principles are incorporated in the construction of modern vessels.

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TABLE E

Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports:-

NIL

Rodents destroyed in docks, quays, wharves and warehouses:-

Category	Number
Black rats	Nil
Brown rats	103
Sent for examination	2
Species not known	Nil
Infected with plague	Nil

Number of rats presumed killed, based on amount of poison bait consumed: 190
Number of mice presumed killed: 64

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TABLE F

DERATTING CERTIFICATES AND DERATTING EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE ISSUED DURING THE YEAR FOR SHIPS FROM FOREIGN PORTS

No. of Deratting Certificates issued					Number of Deratting Exemption Certificates issued	Total Certificates issued
HCN 1	After fumigation with Other fumigant (state method) 2	After trapping 3	After poisoning 4	Total 5	6	7
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	53	53

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PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PEST ACT, 1949
(Application to Shipping) Order 1951

No rodent control certificates were issued to coastal vessels during the year.

SECTION XIII

INSPECTION OF SHIPS FOR NUISANCES

TABLE G

INSPECTIONS AND NOTICES

Nature and Number of Inspections	Notices served		Result of serving Notices
	Statutory Notices	Other Notices	Notices Complied with
924	Nil	2	2

SECTION XIV

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL-FISH) REGULATIONS, 1934 & 1948

Under the above regulations, the following were made prohibited areas for the gathering of mussels, cockles, winkles, limpets and other shell-fish for human consumption by an Order made in 1936:-

Hooe Lake,
The Hamoaze, including West Mud.
St. John's Lake.
Off Torpoint Institution.
River Tamar and its tributaries.
Weston Mill Lake.
Off Rat's Island.
Mouth of St. German's River.
Off Saltash.

Notice boards are maintained warning persons that the taking of shell-fish for sale for human consumption is forbidden. No formal action has been necessary under the regulations.

In 1966 the order was amended to permit oysters being taken for sale for human consumption from the river Lynher and river Tamar (off Henn Point) conditional on the oysters being cleansed at the plant operated by Saltash Corporation. The Ministry of Health withdrew approval of this plant in 1967, which in effect closes the fisheries.

SECTION XV

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF ALIENS

1. List of Medical Inspectors of Aliens holding Warrants of Appointment:

   Dr. T.A.I. Rees
   Dr. G.B. Carter
   Dr. T.R. Forrest
   Dr. N.R. Matheson
   Dr. L.N. Trethowan
   Dr. W.H. Haskins

2. List of other staff engaged on this work:

   NIL

3. Organisation of works:
   Ships carrying aliens are boarded as necessary by the Medical Officer. Most of the work in connection with the Medical Inspection of Aliens is carried out by the Deputy Port Medical Officer, the remaining officers being available for relief duties.

4. Nature and amount of aliens traffic:
   With the cessation of passenger liner traffic the majority of aliens using the port are short-stay visitors.
   During the year the number of incoming aliens was 1,468 and the number of outgoing aliens was 1,492.

5. Accommodation for medical inspection and examination:
   A room for medical examination is provided in the Port Health office.

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[illegible]	[illegible]		[illegible]
	[illegible]	[illegible]	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES FOR ALIENS MEDICALLY EXAMINED

Nature of Report or Certificate	Total number of Reports and Certificates issued	Aliens not permitted to land
A Unsound mind or mentally defective	1	1
B(1) Undesirable for medical reasons	None	None
(a) Inability to support	None	None
B(2)(b) Likely to require medical treatment	None	None
(c) Inability to support and likely to require medical treatment	None	None
C Conditionally landed for further medical examination	None	None
TOTALS	1	1

COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS ACT 1962

MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF COMMONWEALTH IMMIGRANTS

(1) List of Medical Inspectors of Commonwealth Immigrants:-

Dr. T.A.I. Rees
Dr. G.B. Carter
Dr. T.R. Forrest
Dr. N.R. Matheson
Dr. L.H. Trethewan
Dr. W.H. Haskins

(2) Total number of Commonwealth citizens subject to control under the Act:- 23
(3) Total number of Commonwealth citizens medically examined: 1

REPORTS AND CERTIFICATES FOR COMMONWEALTH CITIZENS MEDICALLY EXAMINED

No certificates in respect of Commonwealth citizens medically examined were issued.

(4) Total number of Commonwealth citizens embarked: 14

SECTION XVI

MISCELLANEOUS

Arrangements for the burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from infectious disease:-

Disposal of the dead is carried out under conditions prescribed by the Medical Officer of Health in accordance with the nature of the disease. The Public Mortuary is available to accommodate bodies if necessary. Cremation is advocated and is available locally.

FOOD INSPECTION

During the year 110 vessels were dealt with under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations 1937 and 1948 and the Public Health (Imported Foods) Regulations 1968.

The total amount of foodstuffs voluntarily surrendered and condemned as unsound, unwholesome or unfit for human consumption, consisted of:-

Strawberries	100 lbs
Ice Cream	61 galls and 153 Cartons
Fruit Drink	99 Cases
Fresh Fruit	16 Tons 4cwt. 3qtr. 13 lb
Fresh Vegetables	13 Tons 7cwt. 1qtr. 0lb
Canned Meat	5cwt. 3qtr. 9 lb
Miscellaneous Canned items	1 Ton 4cwt. 2qtr. 2 lb
Lard	3cwt. 2qtr. 20 lb

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The following specimens were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Greenbank, Plymouth.

Date	Specimen	Source	Examined for	Result
9.5.70	Water 1	Drakes Island - Kitchen Tap	B. Coli	NIL B.Coli per 100 ml
	Water 2	" " External Tap	B. Coli	" " " "
2.10.70	Water 1	M.V. Lanesra - Supply Tap	B. Coli	NIL B. Coli per 100 ml
	Water 2	" " Holding tank	" "	" " " "
12.12.70	Water 1	U.S. SHIP - Galley Tap	B. Coli	NIL B.Coli per 100 ml
	Water 2	"'Cane' Holding tank	" "	" " " "
15.5.70	Brown Rat	Millbay Docks	P. Pestis.	No pathogens isolated
13.8.70	Brown Rat	Millbay Docks	P. Pestis.	No pathogens isolated

CASES OF NON INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND INJURY LANDED AT THE PORT

14 cases of non-infectious disease or injury were landed for hospital treatment during the year.

1 body brought in dead - found in sea.

1 body brought in dead - death by asphyxia.